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News Release

90 MEXICANS DEPORTED BY ICE

85 were criminal aliens with convictions ranging from murder to child molestation

ATLANTA—A 40 year-old convicted murderer was among 90 Mexicans removed here during the month of April by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deportation officers.

Valentine Villezcas-De La Rosa entered the United States illegally at Columbus, New Mexico in 1984 and was convicted of manslaughter in May 2000. He was sentenced to 86 months in prison and served 64 months before ICE deported him on April 29, 2005.

Eighty-five of those deported had been convicted of crimes ranging from child molestation and murder to robbery and forgery.

"We have removed 85 dangerous criminals who were hiding in our communities," said John Mata, field office director for detention and removal in Atlanta. "We will continue to find those who break our laws and deport them for the sake of pubic safety and national security."

ICE's detention and removal program is charged with reducing the number of aliens hiding in the United States and removing them as expeditiously as possible.

The ICE Atlanta deportation office removed 3, 363 aliens during Fiscal Year 2004, 2,083 of those removed had criminal convictions. In the first 3 months of Fiscal Year 2005, a total of 804 illegal aliens were removed and 486 of them were criminals.

#ICE#

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

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